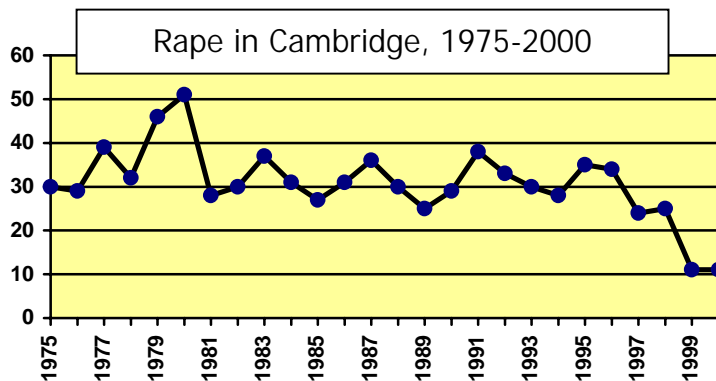


Rape

11 in 1999 • 11 in 2000 • No Change



Forcible Rape, as defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting Program is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force, and assaults with the intent to commit rape, are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

The 11 rapes reported to the Cambridge Police in 2000 is the lowest reported total in at least 35 years and probably a lot longer (crime statistics do not exist prior to 1965).

Three of the 11 rapes were *stranger* rapes, meaning that the victim did not know the attacker. All three were attempts:

- On April 22, 2000, at 9:15 p.m., a 24-year old was approached in Cambridge Common by a 48-year-old Dorchester man, who asked for sexual acts. When the woman refused, the man forced her into a parking lot and tried to rape her.
- On October 18, 2000, at 3:00 a.m., an unknown man entered a Bigelow Street house through an unlocked sliding door and attempted to rape a 14-year-old girl who was sleeping in her bedroom.
- On November 11, 2000, an attempted blitz rape was reported at Harvard & Norfolk Streets. An arrest was made.

Statistical Note

Rape, like all other crimes, is subject to reclassification subsequent to investigation. Statistical discrepancies sometimes arise when crimes counted during one time period are later re-classified. Such was the case with several 1999 rapes, re-classified after victims recanted or altered their testimony, or after new facts came to the attention of the Sexual Assault Unit. The decision to re-classify a crime is not taken lightly; it is made only after careful investigation and consideration on the part of the investigating detectives.

The Crime Analysis Unit classifies rape into five different categories:

Acquaintance Rapes

Acquaintance rapes are non-domestic rapes committed by someone that the victim knows. They include rapes of co-workers, schoolmates, friends, and other acquaintances, including "date rapes." There were seven of these reported in 2000. They include a 10-year-old girl who was raped by a friend of her mother, two date-rape situations at nearby universities, a statutory rape, a rape of a woman who left a local social club with a man in a van, and a homeless rape.

Blitz Rapes

Blitz rapes are stranger rapes in which the rapist rapidly and brutally assaults his victim with no prior contact. He "comes out of nowhere" or "blitzes" the victim. They usually occur at night in a public place. Two such rapes—both attempts—were reported in 2000: the April 22nd Cambridge Common incident and the November attack reviewed to the left.

Contact Rapes

These are a type of stranger rape in which the suspect contacts the victim and tries to gain her confidence before assaulting her. Contact rapists pick up their victims in bars, lure them into their cars or houses, or otherwise try to coerce the victim into a rape situation. There were no such rapes in 2000.

Domestic Rapes

Domestic rapes involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, and family members. There was one such incident in 2000.

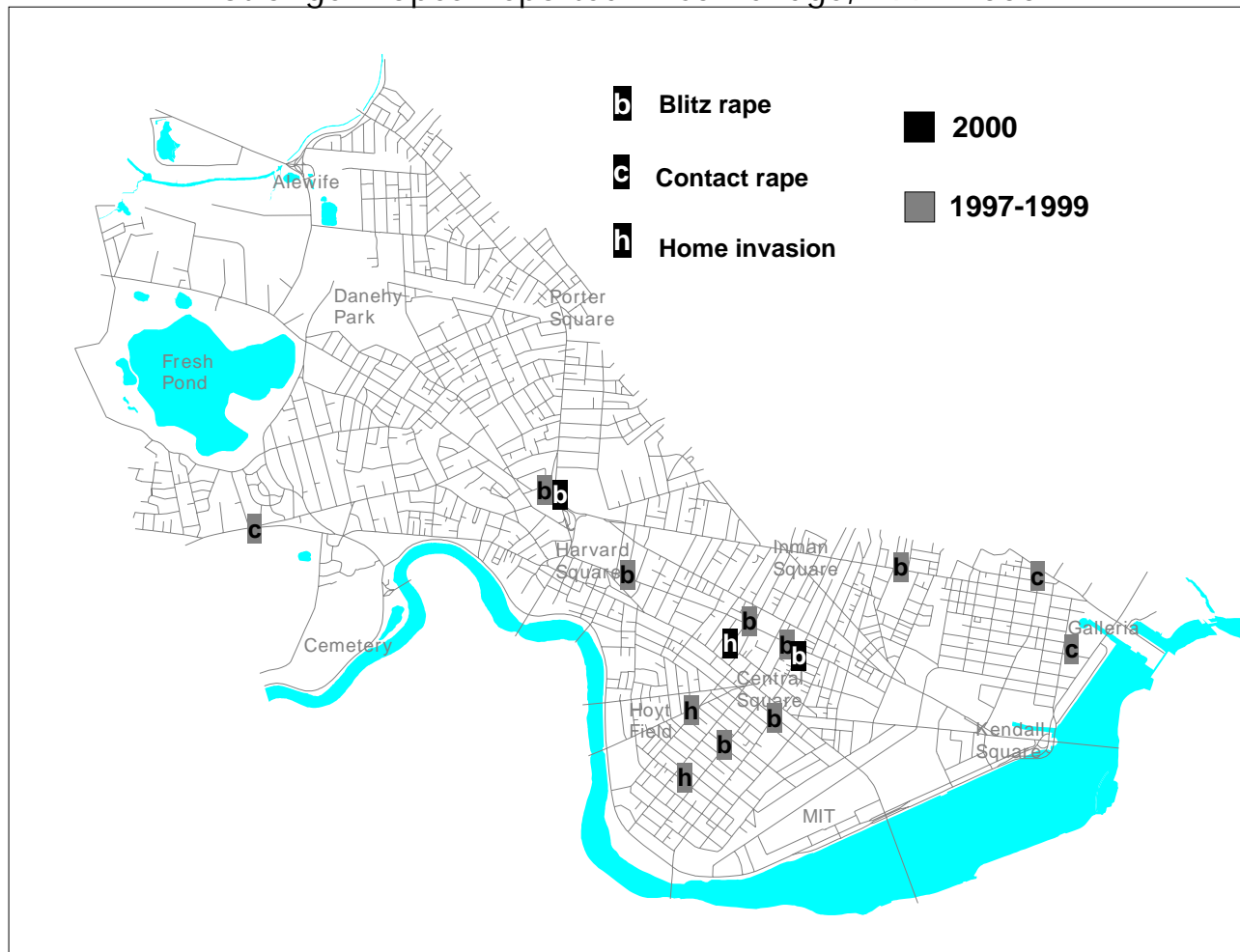
	Acq.	Blitz	Cont.	Dom.	H.I.	Total
Complete	6	0	0	1	0	7
Attempt	1	2	0	0	1	4
Total	7	2	0	1	1	11

Home Invasion Rapes

This type of stranger rape occurs when the rapist breaks into the victim's home to commit his crime. There was one home invasion rape in 2000, the October 18th incident reviewed above.

The Cambridge Police Department's Sexual Assault Unit reports that 6 incidents in 2000 have been cleared by arrest.

Stranger Rapes Reported in Cambridge, 1997-2000



Rape around the Region & Nation

The estimated 89,107 forcible rapes reported to law enforcement agencies nationwide in 1999 represented the seventh consecutive annual decrease for this offense. The 1999 forcible rape total shows a 4% decline from the 1998 level, a 9% decrease from the 1995 level, and a 13% drop from the 1990 level.

The FBI reported a 4.3 percent decrease in reported rapes (and a 5.2 decrease in rapes per 100,000 persons) across the nation between 1998 and 1999. Like the Cambridge Police Department, the FBI cautions that a significant portion of rapes go unrecorded, making the validity of the statistics uncertain.

In Massachusetts, cities with populations between 50,000 and 150,000 reported an average of 27 rapes per 100,000 residents. These cities include Brockton (28 per 100,000), Lowell (33), Lynn (22), Chicopee (29), Fall River (23), Framingham (16), Lawrence (53), Medford (6), Malden (14), Plymouth (16), Quincy (20), Taunton (11), Waltham (12), Springfield (132), Weymouth (8), and Newton (6). Cities and towns surrounding Cambridge (excluding Boston) reported a combined total of 17 rapes.

**National and Regional Statistics for 2000 are not yet available*